

Message

From: David Biderman [dbiderman@swana.org]
Sent: 9/13/2019 6:25:24 PM
To: Coleman, Cheryl [Coleman.Cheryl@epa.gov]
Subject: SWANA
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; 2019 Ohio - Recycling Sept 16 v2.pptx

Cheryl – it was good speaking with you this morning. Attached is a presentation I am making on Monday at a joint conference put on by SWANA's Ohio chapter, the Association of Ohio Recyclers, and another Ohio organization. You will see some of the positive messaging in this presentation that we discussed. It is my hope that EPA will adopt some of these positive messages in its external communications leading up to, at and after ARD 2019.

Thank you for giving my name to Krista Dellapino. Please keep me posted on this opportunity. I am interested in seeing the agenda for the 11/7 event, even if I am not ultimately invited.

Regarding G7: I think the U.S. has a terrific positive story to tell about how we completely overhauled our waste management infrastructure over the past 40 years. We went from 10,000 dumpsites to 1,600 sanitary landfills, 75 WTE facilities, and nearly 1,000 recycling/composting facilities. A key factor contributing to this was that states were not able to isolate themselves from interstate commerce in waste or recyclables. This means that garbage or waste plastic generated in one state can be disposed of or recycled in another state. This created the incentive for companies to make significant capital investment in building new, larger, and more environmentally protective sanitary landfills – disposal facilities subject to regulation under RCRA and state law. The combination of tough regulations and no barriers between states is what allows New York City, which generates 22,000 tpd, to not have a daily trash crisis, even though it does not have a single landfill or WTE facility in the 5 boroughs (to be fair, some of the recyclables are processed in Brooklyn or Staten Island). NYC's waste uses trucks and rail to go to heavily regulated disposal facilities in a number of state – landfills and WTE that generate energy and control leachate.

This is the model that EPA should be offering to developing nations. Larger countries like Brazil and Indonesia have thousands of dumps, and a population of about 200 million people – just like the U.S. in 1976. The US should offer technical assistance and capacity building to developing nations so they can undergo their own solid waste transformation – closing old dump sites, building new landfills where LFG and leachate are controlled, building modern recycling facilities. This solid waste infrastructure is what prevents plastic and other discards from ending up in rivers and eventually oceans. The principal source of the Pacific garbage patch are 8 countries in Asia, through a handful of major river systems. Constructing and operating modern solid waste facilities in these countries, and changing consumer behavior concerning litter, will play a major role in reducing marine litter. Having a better recycling system plays a role in achieving this goal, as would simply banning single use plastic. SWANA is providing technical assistance and capacity building to Colombia under a State Dept grant, and others (World Bank, etc) are doing so as well. What we need is a global effort – led by the U.S. – to transform and modernize solid waste infrastructure and systems. This will reduce the environmental and Climate impact of poor waste management systems and facilities (dumps generate lots of methane), improve the lives of billions throughout the world, and not unimportantly, create jobs for US companies.

Let me know if this is helpful

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